



## Wipe Them Out!

Today, preachers are told to preach on more agreeable subjects, like love and brotherhood. "After all, people want to go home feeling good, thinking positive thoughts about themselves. So stick to those kinds of sermons."

Before I go any further, let me read an e-mail I got a chuckle out of and I think you will too:

God populated the earth with broccoli, cauliflower and spinach, green and yellow vegetables of all kinds, so Man and Woman would live long and healthy lives.

Then Satan created McDonald's. And McDonald's brought forth the 99-cent double-cheeseburger. Then Satan said to Man, "You want fries with that?"

And Man said, "Super-size them." And Man gained pounds.

God created healthful yogurt so woman might keep her figure that man found so fair.

Then Satan brought forth chocolate. And woman gained pounds.

God said, "Try my crispy fresh salad."

Then Satan brought forth ice cream. And woman gained more pounds.

God said, "I have sent you heart healthy vegetables and olive oil with which to cook them."

Then Satan brought forth chicken-fried steak so big it needed its own platter. And Man gained pounds and his bad cholesterol went through the roof.

So God brought forth running shoes and Man resolved to lose those extra pounds.

Then Satan brought forth cable TV with remote control so Man would not have to toil to change channels. And Man gained even more pounds.

God brought forth the potato, a vegetable naturally low in fat and brimming with nutrition.

Then Satan peeled off the healthful skin and sliced the starchy center into chips and deep-fat fried them. And he created sour cream dip also.

And Man clutched his remote control and ate the potato chips soaked in cholesterol. Satan saw it and said, "It is good." And Man went into cardiac arrest.

God sighed and created quadruple bypass heart surgery.

Then Satan created HMO's.

I enjoyed reading it. But I'm afraid that too many people treat evil – as a joke. They have sugarcoated sin, and laughed at the mention of hell. Sin is no laughing matter. It is deadly serious. Listen carefully to Solomon:

Righteousness exalts a nation,  
but sin is a reproach to any people (Proverbs 14:34 ESV)

That was true 3,000 years ago, and it's true today!

The divine command to exterminate all the men, women and children belonging to seven or eight nations of Canaan is one of the most frequently raised objections to seeing God as just and loving. In truth, every attempt to tone down the command ignores the plain meaning of texts like Exodus 23:32-33; 34:12-16; Deuteronomy 7:1-5; 20:15-18; and Joshua 6:17, 21.

## Why Did God Require the Extermination of Entire Populations?

- **Not Israel's Moral Superiority**

Deuteronomy 9:5-6

It had nothing to do with Israel's moral superiority. The reason the nations were dispossessed and utterly destroyed – placed under “ban” – was due to their wickedness, not Israel's righteousness.

Israel was not righteous or upright (Deut 9:5). Israel's "stiff-neckedness" was a condition that was not about to leave or lessen in a day or two or even a few weeks. They suffer from a stubborn spirit. God did not want them to feel superior or act self-righteous when they enter the Promised Land.

Israel did not do anything to deserve or secure God's favor. It was not an exaggeration to say the Israelites were uninterested, uncooperative and unpleasant along the way.

- **Full Measure of Evil**

God had patiently waited 600 years for the Canaanites to repent. The very reason God did not establish Israel in the Promised Land when He made the covenant with Abraham was Amorites had to reach “full measure” sin (Genesis 15:16). Because God is just, he would not permit their eviction from the land until their sin had reached its full measure.

The nations were displaced from the land due their wickedness. God detested the Amorites because of their carnal idolatry, profane sacrifices and bloodthirsty ways. They ...

- burnt their children as human sacrifices to honor their gods
- practiced numerous sexual vices openly and with glee, including homosexuality, bestiality, incest (Leviticus 20).

Like a surgeon does not refrain from amputating a cancerous tumor, even though in doing so, he may cut off away healthy tissue, so God exterminated entire city-states – men, women, and children – to remove the cancerous rot their culture had developed.

Actually, this is not new. God previously exterminated whole people groups because their perversion had reached epidemic proportions, for example, the Flood and the five cities of the Plain (which included Sodom and Gomorrah).

- **His Name Dwell There**  
Deuteronomy 12:1-4

God wanted to establish His name in the land of Canaan. He wanted all people to know the one true God. He is the One true God who doesn't just want a relationship with Israel. He wants a relationship with all people. Nineteen times, primarily in Deuteronomy, God says this is His mission. God wants to make His name known in Canaan.

- **Rules of Engagement**  
Deuteronomy 20:10-15

Israel was not permitted or even ordered to treat all nations the same way. God required Israel to offer conditions of peace to other nations and whatever war Israel engaged was to be in self-defense.

- **Warning**  
Deuteronomy 7:1-6

9 Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations, 10 and repays to their face those who hate him, by destroying them. He will not be slack with one who hates him. He will repay him to his face (Deuteronomy 7:9–10 ESV).

God's intervention was a warning to the Hebrews as well as their neighbors. God rules in the affairs of mankind. He judges nations in time.

Israel was God's instruments for judgment on the nations, to clear the land of the shocking sin and depravity of the Canaanite idolaters. There is no place for Israel to reckon herself more self-righteous than the Canaanite.

## God Judges Nations

The first two chapters of Amos, the prophet condemns 8 distinct nations – 6 are Gentile nations.

- Aram – merciless and cruel killing
- Gaze – slave trading
- Tyre – slave trading
- Edom – merciless and cruel killing
- Ammon – killing pregnant women and unborn children
- Moab – cruel crimes against humanity

**Read:** Daniel 4:16-17, 31-34. Note carefully, God rules over nations, establishing their leader.

**Read:** Psalm 9:4-6, 15-17, 19-20

God creates, established and controls all nations, whether they know it or not. He will execute His purpose in the world.

Acts 17:24-28

His standard: Proverbs 14:34

## **What Do God's Judgement Include?**

Read: Isaiah 19

- vs 2-3 – social unrest, anarchy, class warfare
- vs 4 – tyranny, harsh social rules
- vs 5-7 – natural disasters
- vs 8-10 – economic hardships
- vs 11-14 – failure of political leadership, leaders who lack real wisdom
- vs 15 – unemployment

The purpose of government (no matter the political system) is to promote justice and curb injustice. When governments neglect their sovereignly assigned responsibility, they open themselves up to the wrath of a justice loving God. God sits in judgement of nations and will execute His will.

While we may never be able to say with certainty that a particular nation has fallen under God's judgement. We do know, God does judge nations. God holds nations are accountable for their culture.